

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 27, and 30-33, resulting in the following set of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for a system including a first processor, a plurality of checkout stations, each checkout station including a respective second processor, a respective third processor, and a respective bar code reader, the method comprising ~~the steps, performed for each checkout station to perform a checkout transaction for a customer, of:~~

reading a first location from a memory of a customer card via the second processor of a checkout station in the plurality of checkout stations;

using the bar code reader of the checkout station to generate a first signal identifying a product selected by the customer;

sending the first signal to the third processor of the checkout station;

sending the first signal to the second processor of the checkout station;

determining, in the first processor, a second location; and

writing to the second location of the memory of the customer card via the second processor of the checkout station.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the content of the first location includes a length.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the content of the first location includes a value characteristic.

Claim 4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (cancelled).

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further includes sending a financial signal from the first processor to the checkout station.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending the financial signal to the second processor of the checkout station, and the method further includes
determining an amount due, responsive to the financial signal.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further including sending a signal identifying a product from the checkout station to the first processor.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further includes sending a financial signal from the first processor to the third processor of the checkout station.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending via the second processor of the checkout station.

Claims 11-26 (cancelled).

27. (currently amended) A method for a system including a first processor, a plurality of checkout stations, each checkout station including a respective second processor, a respective third processor, and a respective bar code reader, the method comprising ~~the steps, performed for each checkout station to perform a checkout transaction for a customer, of:~~

reading a first location from a memory of a customer card via the second processor of a checkout station in the plurality of checkout stations;

using the bar code reader of the checkout station to generate a first signal identifying a product selected by the customer;

sending the first signal to the third processor of the checkout station;

sending the first signal to the second processor of the checkout station;

sending the first signal from the second processor of the checkout station to the first processor;

determining, in the first processor, a second location; and

writing to the second location of a memory of the customer card via the second processor of the checkout station.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the content of the

first location includes a length.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the content of the first location includes a value characteristic.

30. (currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the method further includes

sending a financial signal from the first processor to the checkout station; and
using the financial signal to determine and amount due.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 30 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending the financial signal to the second processor of the checkout station.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the method further includes sending a financial signal from the first processor to the third processor of the checkout station.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim 32 wherein sending the financial signal includes sending via the second processor of the checkout station.